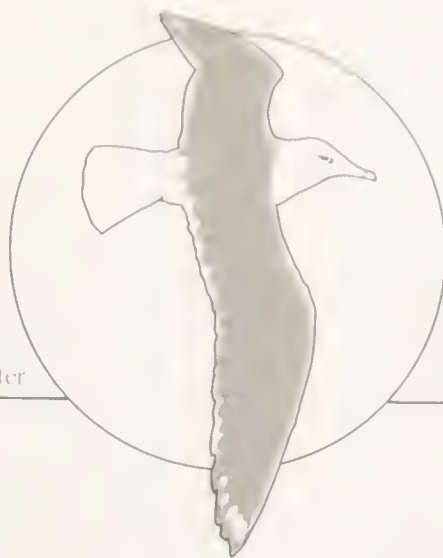


The Gull

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter



Volume 68, No. 5, March 2000

JUL 24 2000

1999 Oakland Christmas Bird Count Results

By Joelle Buffa & Clyde Morris, Co compilers

Well, one thing is for certain - nobody could complain about the weather! After the cold, windy, and wet counts of 1996 and 1998, count day of the 1999-Oakland Christmas Bird Count (CBC), December 19, was warm and clear with calm winds and seas. Yes! This is why we live in the Bay Area. A fine way to celebrate the 100th birthday and the Oakland CBC's 60th.

The good news is that bird numbers are up, with total individuals counted exceeding one hundred thousand for the first time in five years. We recorded the highest number

of birds (113,526) since 1995. The number of species seen (176) was about average. Ironically, we had one of the lowest participant turnouts of the decade (147 field observers, 10 feeder watchers) to tally all those birds. This shows that Oakland CBCers are not fair-weather birders. The foul-weather counts of 1998 and 1997 (which produced fewer fowl) had 178 and 185 participants, respectively. But we were a hard-working, determined bunch, logging more party hours in 1999 than most years.

Two new birds were added to the list - meaning they have never been seen since the Oakland CBC began in 1959:

American Redstart, found by Rusty Scaff on Bay Farm Island, and **Barn Swallow**, observed soaring along a ridge in the Sibley/Roundtop area by Mike & Jane Larkin.

We had **record high** numbers for many species this year (averages are based on 26-year period, 1974-1999): **Wood Duck** (25 counted; average=6), **Mallard** (1,687; average=1,058), **Barrow's Goldeneye** (150; average=48), **No. Harrier** (54; average=16), and **Red-tailed Hawk** (214; average=145). Before you scoff at double-counting being the reason for the red-tail numbers, consider the fact that all raptor numbers except kestrels and kites were above the 26-year average. **Black Oystercatcher** was first recorded on the Oakland CBC in 1985, seen sporadically between 1986 and 1991, and their numbers have gradually increased to a record high of 7 in 1999. Other record highs: **Black**

Excellent Volunteer Opportunity! (We Need A Field Trip Committee Chair)

Field Trip Committee Chair Lillian Fujii has decided its time to let someone else have the privilege of chairing Golden Gate Audubon's Field Trip Committee. This position is one of the most pleasurable volunteer opportunities GGAS has to offer. We have a cadre of field trip leaders who are among the finest people and birders in the Bay Area. If you would like to work with these people, have e-mail, and can make a few phone calls a month, prepare the field trip calendar and attend board meetings, please call the GGAS office at (510) 845-2222 or Lillian at (510) 256-4167 ASAP.

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Field Trips Calendar

Sunday March 5, STRYBING ARBORETUM, SF.

See April 2 trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Wednesday March 8, MINI TRIP TO MITCHELL CANYON, Contra Costa County.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. See February Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman. (\$)

Saturday March 11, HAYWARD SHORELINE, Alameda County.

Meet at 8 a.m. See February Gull for details. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936. E-mail: Rscalf@jps.net

Saturday March 18, RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, Marin County.

Meet at 10 a.m. at Audubon Center in the Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Rd. in Tiburon. Take Hwy 101 to the Tiburon Exit (Rt. 131). Turn toward Tiburon on Tiburon Blvd. and go about one mile to Greenwood Cove Rd. Turn right and follow the road about 1/2 mile. You will see a sign on the right that says Richardson Bay Audubon Center Sanctuary. Please park on the street. We will enjoy a 45-minute slide show in the classroom, then from 11 to 12 look for birds along the trail and along Richardson Bay shoreline, followed by a brief tour of the historic Lyford House (always a highlight). After lunch, we will probably carpool to the Corte Madera shoreline for more waterfowl. Trip will end about 2:30. Bring lunch. Beginners welcome. Leader: Ranger Bill Bixby (415) 388-2524, Wed-Sun., daytime.

Sunday March 19, BODEGA BAY, Sonoma County.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the corner of Eastshore and Hwy. 1, about 1 mile north of Dickmann's Store. We will begin by birding the rich Bodega

Harbor area and Bodega Head, covering as many spots as time and the birds permit. No particular ending time, but bring lunch. Rain cancels. Beginners welcome. Leader: Nancy Conzett (707) 875-2231.

Saturday March 25, SAN FRANCISCO BIRD BLITZ.

In this annual blitz, we expect to tally over 100 different species within the City limits. For this year's mad dash, we look to exceed all previous records and will begin at 7 a.m. sharp. Meet at the north end of Van Ness Ave. (past North Point - the last cross street) at the foot of Municipal Pier. From there, we will caravan to other sites, including Golden Gate Park, Sutro Baths, Lake Merced, and Candlestick Point. Bring lunch, snacks, and liquids. We will bird until dusk, then adjourn to a restaurant for dinner to recap the day's observations. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. (*)

Saturday April 1, SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, Alameda County.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. inside the park entrance at the parking lot on the left. See April 12th mini-trip for directions to the park. Bring lunch and liquids. We should see Golden Eagles, a variety of winter residents, and early migrants. This trip is also good for wildflowers. Leader: Ron Lindeman (510) 636-0311. (\$)

Sunday April 2, STRYBING ARBORETUM, SF.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. (first day of Daylight Savings Time) at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats," attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Saturday April 8, BREEDING BIRDS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Most of our summer breeding species will be in residence. Many male birds will be singing or displaying. Some hummingbirds will be on their second broods. There'll be a few lingering winter residents (like wigeon and scoter) but expect the Northern Mockingbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, Hooded Oriole, Marsh Wren, Barn Swallow, Common Raven, and many other summer species to be territorial and vocal. We'll study where each species nests and some nest types. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Land's End parking lot on Merrie Way just east of the Cliff House. Trip will end at noon. Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229, harry_fuller@zd.com. (*)

Sunday April 9, RUSH CREEK, Novato, Marin County.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the park entrance on Binford Road for this half-day trip. This lovely area has a variety of habitats, including marsh (shorebirds) and oak-bay woodlands. Directions: Take 101 north to the last Novato exit, which is Atherton Ave./San Marin Drive. Turn right onto Atherton. Take the first (quick) left onto Binford, which curves, then fronts Hwy 101. The park entrance is a short distance from Atherton. Bring lunch, liquids, and scope if you have one. Beginners welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: Don Schmoldt (look for his white Jeep with BAJA OWL license plates), (510) 547-5108.

Wednesday April 12, MINI-TRIP TO SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, Alameda County.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot inside the park near the green barn. Take Hwy 680 south to about 8 miles beyond the intersection of Hwy 580. Turn off at Calaveras Rd; go left (south) and follow the signs to Sunol Regional Park, about 5 miles. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Bullock's Orioles, plus resident

birds of the area. Bring lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9501, and Jean-Marie Spoelman \$(*)

Saturday April 15, SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN (San Mateo County, north of South San Francisco).

Meet at 8 a.m. at the headquarters parking lot on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on this half-day trip, which is a joint activity with the Friends of San Bruno Mountains. We expect to see birds migrating through, as well as returning breeding birds such as Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanager, flycatchers, and Wrentits. Winter Wren is particularly abundant in the San Bruno Mountains. Leaders: Herb Brandt (415) 259-2711, and Doug Allshouse. \$ to park in parking lot if gate is open.

Sunday April 16, ABBOTT'S LAGOON, Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Bovine Bakery on Rte. 1 in downtown Point Reyes Station, two miles north of Olema. We will concentrate on shorebird identification. Bring a scope if you have one, lunch, and liquids, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Lina Jane Prairie (510) 235-2902.

Saturday April 22, BOTHE - NAPA VALLEY STATE PARK, Napa County.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center (at right just inside the park entrance). The park is located on Hwy 29 about 5 miles north of St. Helena and is exceptionally beautiful in spring: full of birds and wildflowers, but rarely crowded with human visitors. From the East Bay, take I80 north to Vallejo; take the first Vallejo exit and go north on Hwy 29. From San Francisco, take 101 north to Hwy 37 (about 20 miles); turn right on 37 to Sears Point. Go left

on Hwy 121 north and east to Hwy 29, thence north about 20 miles to the park (or go through Oakland as above: the distance is much the same, about 65 miles total). Allow plenty of time for this drive - it can be foggy and very slow going. The birding will be largely by ear; the walking, about 3 miles or so, definitely nonathletic. Pileated Woodpecker is a possibility. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip will end early to mid afternoon. Beginners are welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. (\$)

Saturday April 22, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASORE TWELFTH ANNUAL ALL-DAY BIRDING BLITZ

(Joint activity: GGAS and National Park Service.) Meet at 8 a.m. at the Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot, approximately 3.5 miles south of Olema on the west side of Hwy 1. We will bird the Five Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock, and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multihabitat trip that usually tallies over 100 species. Bring water, food, and wear layered clothing for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510) 843-4107 (home), and Cathy Purchis (510) 865-9482. (*)

Plan Ahead: 1) Saturday April 29, Mines Road, Leader: George Bing; 2) June 17-19, Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley, Leader: Peter Allen; 3) June 30-July 2, Lassen National Park, Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger (even if a trip is not marked with an (*), if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEADING A TRIP, call Lillian Fujii (510) 256-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.

Donations

Golden Eagle (\$1,000 or more)

An anonymous donation for the Alameda Wild program through The San Francisco Foundation, Peet's Coffee and Tea (see article on page 6), Susan Briggs with match from the Flora Family Foundation.

Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

Jacqueline Smalley and John Austin.

Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Mr and Mrs Douglas Leach through the Douglas and Laverne Charitable Foundation, Mary Schaefer, Beryl and Michael Ness, Edwin Pike, Jan and Renate Smith, Theresa and Dr Richard Horrigan, Helen and Samuel Klebanoff, Janice and Thomas Vargo, Mary Betlach.

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Joyce and John Davis, Ronald Felzer, Susan Coghlan and Hugh Cotter, Elana Swartzman and Scott Benson, Claudia Windfuhr and James Hand, Linda and John Stedman, Karel and Inge Svoboda, Alice and Charles Bragg, Jr., Dorothy Kakimoto, Mark Eaton (for San Francisco Bird Count), Bruce Mast, Dorothy Field Tee, Renee and Steve Margolin, Judith Breen, Elinor Blake, Nancy and William Roche, Brent Malarkey, Sheana Butler, Carol Opotow and Robert Gould, Julie Bartholomew and Eric Preston.

Gifts (to \$99)

David Silverberg, Cheri Bryant, Carmia Feldman and Jamie Ordonez, Shelia Stetson, Harry McQuillen, Martha Davis, Morton Paley, Jeffrey Brodtkin, Eugene Cahoon, Alan Joseph Lyons, Marilyn and Dr J. Roland Bean, Emma Brown, Frank Hand, Bonnie Michalek, Linda Zimmerman, Bob Battagin, L.M. Seiler and Robin Weinberger, Dian Duryea and

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Latin America Committee Supports Biosphere Reserve in Mexico



Elevations range from 900 to 10,000 ft.

Biosphere Sierra Gorda is the newest program receiving support from the GGAS Latin America Committee (LAC). Located near San Miguel de Allende 300 kilometers northwest of Mexico City, Sierra Gorda boasts the greatest amount of biodiversity of any of Mexico's chain of 36 biosphere reserves. Including Panama and Nicaragua, our committee has now moved to support three conservation efforts in Latin America.

The Sierra Gorda Biosphere

Reserve occupies the northern one-third of the state of Queretaro. Elevations range from 350 to 3,100 meters, and rainfall varies between 350 and 1,500 mm per year. The reserve contains 14 distinct ecosystems, from semidesert to mountain cloud forest. Over 350 species of birds have been identified in the reserve, including many migrants from the US and Canada.

The Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda (GESG) is the Mexican nongovernmental organization that manages

the reserve and runs programs in environmental education, reforestation, recycling, and sustainable development. Especially impressive is their high degree of community involvement in conservation efforts. The Director, Pati Ruiz Corzo, is an Ashoka fellow and has received numerous awards. She and the biosphere reserve were recently written up in *Change Makers* magazine. You can find the article with photos

Success At Alameda !!!

We did it! We couldn't have done it without your help, but we did it.

On January 25, Golden Gate Audubon's Executive Director Arthur Feinstein and Alameda Program Director Dana Kokubun met with the US Navy's Commander Scott Smith and Steve Edde, US Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator and with San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager Marge Kolar. Representing the City of Alameda were Rich McWilliams of the Alameda Police Department and Dina Tasini of the City of Alameda.

At this meeting, we received assurances from the Navy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service that a fence would be erected before the breeding season that will help stop human trespass onto the soon-to-be Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. We were also assured that procedural steps will be taken that will allow the Alameda Police Department to

enforce trespass laws on the Navy/Refuge site. Furthermore, signs will be posted on the fence indicating that it is against the law to trespass onto Refuge property and that substantial fines will be applied to violators.

GGAS extends its warmest appreciation to all those at the meeting for resolving this issue. An issue that threatened the survival of the Least Tern colony at Alameda (in previous Gull articles, we have explained that last year human trespass during the breeding season played a significant role in the poor reproductive success of our Least Terns at Alameda).

This resolution did not occur without some hard work, however. Working with our lawyer, Bill Yeates, we sent a 60-day letter of Intent to Sue under the Endangered Species Act to both the Navy and the Service. We met with Commander Smith before the letter was sent and explained that it was simply a prod

to action and that we sincerely hoped to avoid litigation. To his great credit, Commander Smith grasped the situation and sought the solutions that eventually are going to be implemented.

We were in frequent communication with Refuge Complex Manager Marge Kolar, seeking insights as to what was needed to help the terns this breeding season.

Dana Kokubun and I traveled to Washington, DC, and explained our problem to legislators and the Administration. Representatives Barbara Lee and Nancy Pelosi immediately fired off a letter to Department of Interior Secretary Babbitt asking him to seek resolution of this problem (they had previously written to the Navy on the same issue). Many thanks to Lynette Farhadian from Representative Lee's office and to Judy Lemons and Nancy Gregoire of Representative Pelosi's office for their most helpful advice

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and sound at www.changemakers.net. GESG's outreach coordinator is San Francisco's own Laura Perez-Arce, a dedicated and dynamic environmen-



Left to right: Marie Karp, Beto Pedraza Ruiz, Audre Newman, Alec Karp, Marina Rendon Zorrilla, Roger Newman, Pati Ruiz Corzo, Laura Perez-Arce.

tal activist.

As part of their new funding effort, Grupo Ecologico wants to expand its program of ecotourism. A description of their program can be found in the Change Makers article. LAC members Audre and Roger Newman recently paid a visit to the GESG, together with East Bay Trails activists Alec and Marie Karp. We found spectacular and varied countryside, comfortable accommodations, several good birding spots, enthusiastic community support, and tremendous respect for Pati and the program. A slide presen-

tation of that trip will be available to the GGAS membership later this spring.

So far, our committee has sent donations and binoculars for use in their environmental education program and has agreed to act as fiscal sponsor for granting agencies and private donors who need a tax deduction. Your contributions and suggestions on other ways we can support this important conservation effort would be much appreciated. You can contact GGAS Latin America Committee chair Bob Rischbrough via email: pelecanus@igc.org or Roger Newman for further information.

Roger Newman, rcnew@home.com

February 2000 Donations

Continued from page 3

Frank Smith, Jr., Mariana Rivera, Kelli Craft and Peter Forster, MD, Courtney Clarkson, Roy Leggitt, Adrienne and Alan Scroggie, Madelon and Gerald Halpern, Yoko Jung, Anne Froment and Oliver Lardinois, George Peyton, Doris Keenan, Ann Killebrew, Elsie and John Becker, Patricia Mahoney, Camille Mulligan and Earl Hans, Wanda Mar and William Pinkham, Delia and John Taylor, Kay and Michael Berger, Megan Thomas, Everett Bliss, Eric Strimling and Lauren Helfand, James Hynson, Reba Ritchey, Nancy Carleton, Vernon Demars, Sarah Hall, Christine Ford, David Schwartz, Patricia Evans, Karin Surber, Esther Mugar, Melanie Lutz, Diana and Vincent Pogorzelski, Grace and Michael Hardie, Marian and Roger Reeve Ttee, Allen Tolman, Cornelia Spearing, James Finch, Mira-Lisa Katz, John Conley, John Lambert, Mary Ann Thompson, Laurel Robinson Ttee, Kay and George Bloom, Vi Louise Bruene, Daniel Bickley, Patricia and Michael

Busk, John Cody, Ann Elston and Lawrence Lossing, Nancy Reynolds, Michel Willey, Elizabeth and Jage Schiff, Carol Oda and Jan Hintermeister, Carol Shattuck and David Rice, Rita and Michael Carey, Nancy Smith, Susan Peters, Judith Long and Peter Holmes, R.E. Bright, John Bowers, Daniel Roth and Louise Brotsky, Bernice Biggs, Leslie Doughty, Leslie Friedman, Joan, Sig and Sigmund Cohn, Penny and Harold DeMoss, Kathryn and George Eddy, Jean Miller, Elizabeth and Clifford Soujourner, Robert Mullaney, Lynne and Audel Davis, Barbara and Dr Jay Salzman, Russell Scalf, Endid and Irwin Leff, Horace Jeter, Kathryn Blake, Mara and Marcus Bearse, Jr., Joseph Johnson, Fredrick Hodgeon, Virginia and David Thompson, Donna and Nordin Blacker, Jean Perata, Vicki Gutgesell, April Ellis, Judith Anne and Eugene Corning, Carolyn Weinberger, Ann and John Kadyk, Dorothy Frantz, Vivian Pon, Kristi Hein, Elizabeth

Faxon, Kenneth Thompson, Joyce and Edgar Lehmann, Nancy Huneke and David Hamilton, Stephen Chervitz, Marion and Robert Blumberg, Brion Charles, Susan Sherman.

In Memoriam:

Carol Kolka in memory of Arthur Freyer.

Editor's Note:

In the February GULL, the donation made by I. Von Der Hude should have been classified as a Golden Eagle donation.

The Society Welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2550 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

For Peet's Sake, We Thank You

Well, I was trying to be cute with the title of this article. The fact is that we are the very grateful recipients of a \$1,301 donation from the Peet's Coffee establishment located at the Potrero Mall, 16th Street and Potrero Avenue, in San Francisco.

During the Christmas Season, Peet's, an enlightened company, encourages each of its individual store's employees to donate to a selected charity all of the tips they collect on the day before Christmas. Corporate Peet's then matches that amount.

Each store individually selects the charity to which their donation will be present-

ed. One of the Potrero Peet's employees, Lloyd Curtis, has joined our Save the Quail Campaign and helped out on our habitat restoration project in Golden Gate Park. Lloyd recommended to the other Peet's employees that they select the Save the Quail Campaign for their charity. Other

employees recommended three other charities, but in the final vote, we were selected.

A big thanks to all of the Potrero Peet's employees, a similar thank you to Peet's for matching their donation, and a real big thanks to Lloyd (see photo) for thinking of us. Our San Francisco Quail are now \$1,300 closer to survival.



Lloyd Curtis (center) with fellow Peet's employees Kari Petersen (left) and Mario Zunic (right).

1999 Oakland Christmas Bird Count Results

Continued from page 1

Turnstone (155; average=40), **Screech Owl** (20; average=5), **Common Raven** (101; average=23), **Pygmy Nuthatch** (86; average=16), and **Marsh Wren** (25; average=5).

Other highlights include a **Black Brant** at Point Isabel (seen in only 4 out of last 26 years), a female **Tufted Duck** at Lake Merritt (seen 5 out of 26 years), a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** (seen 4 out of 26 years), and two birds seen only once before during the past 26 Oakland counts: **Rufous Hummingbird** (UC/Berkeley area) and **Evening Grosbeak** (Redwood Park). Also encouraging were the highest number of scaup (over 30,000) since the mid-1970s, and the highest number of **Band-tailed Pigeons** tallied in over a decade.

For lowlights, **Long-billed Dowitcher** was missed for the first time in 26 years. Since there were good numbers of dowitcher sp., this could mean we are either becoming more cautious or less attentive in separating out the Short and Long-billed Dowitchers. Eurasian Wigeon

was missed for the first time in 15 years, although one was seen during count week. Record lows were recorded for the following species: Double-crested Cormorant (430), Brandt's Cormorant (9), American Wigeon (515), White-winged Scoter (6), Herring Gull (7), Western Scrub Jay (382), Northern Mockingbird (22), California Towhee (381), and Fox Sparrow (285).

A record low for a species for one year shouldn't cause alarm. However, when it happens for several years in a row, or is repeated over a large number of CBCs, it is worth investigating more closely. For example, we have counted record low numbers of Northern Mockingbirds in 4 of the last 5 years, and they seem to show a declining trend over the past decade. On the other hand, increasing trends are not always positive. Exploding raven populations, for example, are a concern because they prey on endangered species such as Snowy Plovers and Least Terns. First reported on the Oakland CBC in 1965, ravens were recorded sporadically in the following decade, seen regularly but in low

numbers in the 1980s, and have increased exponentially in the 1990s.

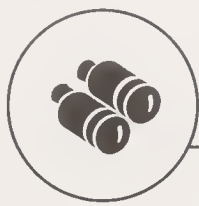
Our thanks to the faithful area leaders, new and old. Consistency and knowledge of the areas produce the best results, so we hope our new leaders will continue to lead for many more years. Thanks go to Arthur and the other GGAS office staff/volunteers for their support. We are grateful to Ann Howard for arranging the countdown dinner, William Giddens for the catered meal, and Diane Ahlgren for collecting money at door. John Poole made an important contribution to ensure future CBC participants by organizing (for the 3rd year in a row) a group of 30 elementary school children (called the Chickadees) and their parents to count in the Tilden North area. We appreciate the work of the Rare Bird Committee: John Luther and Luke Cole. And finally, a big round of applause to all who participated in the count and shared their great stories at the count dinner. We hope to see you all next year on **Sunday, December 17, 2000!**

Continued next page

1999 Oakland Christmas Bird Count Results

Continued from page 6

15 Red-throated Loon	54 N. Harrier	2 Barn Owl	Warbler
1 Pacific Loon	28 Sharp-shinned Hawk	20 W. Screech-Owl	16 Yellow-rump*
35 Common Loon	23 Cooper's Hawk	29 Great Horned Owl	(Myrtle)Warbler
289 Pied-billed Grebe	8 Accipiter, sp*	5 Burrowing Owl	415 Yellow-rump (Aud) *
151 Horned Grebe	27 Red-shouldered Hawk	CW Short-eared Owl	Warbler
1 Red-necked Grebe	214 Red-tailed Hawk	7 N. Saw-whet Owl	935 Yellow-rumped Warbler
140 Eared Grebe	1 <i>Buteo</i> sp*	30 White-throated Swift	1 Black-throated Gray
387 Western Grebe	4 Golden Eagle (adults)	597 Anna's Hummingbird	Warbler
62 Clark's Grebe	45 Am. Kestrel	1 Rufous Hummingbird	89 Townsend's Warbler
9 <i>Aechmophorus</i> sp*	6 Merlin	4 <i>Selasphorus</i> sp*	1 American Redstart
28 Brown Pelican	3 Peregrine Falcon	14 Belted Kingfisher	13 Common Yellowthroat
430 Double-crested Corm.	1 falcon sp*	25 Acorn Woodpecker	174 Spotted Towhee
9 Brandt's Cormorant	69 California Quail	14 Red-breasted Sapsucker	381 California Towhee
4 Pelagic Cormorant	5 Clapper Rail	72 Nuttall's Woodpecker	9 Rufous-crowned
34 Great Blue Heron	4 Virginia Rail	19 Downy Woodpecker	Sparrow
47 Great Egret	8 Sora	14 Hairy Woodpecker	100 Savannah Sparrow
127 Snowy Egret	3,950 American Coot	1 N.(Yellow-shaft)Flicker*	73 Fox Sparrow
1 Cattle Egret	1,338 Black-bellied Plover	144 N. (Red-shafted) Flicker	263 Song Sparrow
1 Green Heron	10 Snowy Plover	34 N. Flicker*	12 Lincoln's Sparrow
106 Black-cr. Night-Heron	52 Semipalmated Plover	138 Black Phoebe	5 White-throated Sparrow
4 White-fronted Goose	242 Killdeer	20 Say's Phoebe	943 Golden-crowned
3 Snow Goose	7 Black Oystercatcher	1 Barn Swallow	Sparrow
CW Ross' Goose	68 Black-necked Stilt	295 Steller's Jay	1,126 White-crowned
1 (Black) Brant	1,108 American Avocet	382 Western Scrub-Jay	Sparrow
1,959 Canada Goose	58 Greater Yellowlegs	116 American Crow	2 Dark-eyed (Slate-col.)
1 Can. Goose (sm. form)*	1,063 Willet	101 Common Raven	Junco*
25 Wood Duck	11 Spotted Sandpiper	952 Chestnut-back	1,241 Dark-eyed (Oregon)
166 Green-winged Teal	25 Whimbrel	Chickadee	Junco
1,687 Mallard	119 Long-billed Curlew	122 Oak Titmouse	2 Dark-eyed (pink-side)
115 Northern Pintail	1,210 Marbled Godwit	1,252 Bushtit	Junco*
CW Blue-winged Teal	7 Ruddy Turnstone	80 Red-breasted Nuthatch	10 Dark-eyed Junco*
71 Cinnamon Teal	155 Black Turnstone	16 White-breasted	1,351 Red-winged Blackbird
321 Northern Shoveler	9 Red Knot	Nuthatch	40 Tricolored Blackbird
116 Gadwall	295 Sanderling	86 Pygmy Nuthatch	725 W. Meadowlark
CW Eur. Wigeon	3,621 W. Sandpiper	53 Brown Creeper	1,499 Brewer's Blackbird
515 Am. Wigeon	348 Least Sandpiper	2 Rock Wren	42 Brown-headed Cowbird
621 Canvasback	3,304 Dunlin	98 Bewick's Wren	1 blackbird sp*
83 Redhead	2,603 peep sp*	1 House Wren	56 Purple Finch
101 Ring-necked Duck	1 sandpiper sp*	26 Winter Wren	719 House Finch
1 Tufted Duck	288 Short-billed Dowitcher	25 Marsh Wren	45 Pine Siskin
4,531 Greater Scaup	528 dowitcher sp	36 Golden-crowned	473 Lesser Goldfinch
1,575 Lesser Scaup	23 Common Snipe	Kinglet	202 American Goldfinch
25,378 scaup, sp*	2 Bonaparte's Gull	631 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 Evening Grosbeak
10,187 Surf Scoter	814 Mew Gull	1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	407 House Sparrow
6 White-winged Scoter	1,461 Ring-billed Gull	174 W. Bluebird	113,526 Individuals
940 Com. Goldeneye	960 California Gull	111 Hermit Thrush	176 Species
130 Barrow's Goldeneye	7 Herring Gull	4,178 American Robin	4 Count-week species
1169 Bufflehead	3 Thayer's Gull	130 Varied Thrush	
11 Hooded Merganser	1,269 Western Gull	164 Wrentit	147 Observers in the field
146 Common Merganser	30 W. X Gl.-wing Gull*	22 N. Mockingbird	30 "Chickadee"
40 Red-breasted Merganser	542 Glaucous-winged Gull	17 California Thrasher	students/parents
4,518 Ruddy Duck	2,261 gull sp*	39 American Pipit	participating in a.m.
239 Turkey Vulture	66 Forster's Tern	693 Cedar Waxwing	10 Feeder Watchers
10 Osprey	1,775 Rock Dove	18 Loggerhead Shrike	
6 White-tailed Kite	598 Band-tailed Pigeon	3,297 Eur. Starling	CW = species seen count week
1 Bald Eagle (adult)	728 Mourning Dove	66 Hutton's Vireo	* = Birds not counted as species
		6 Orange-crowned	



December 30, 1999–January 29, 2000

The period remained dry until mid-January, when the rain started slowly, culminating in many inches of accumulation all over Northern California the week of Jan. 24, quickly bringing totals to near-normal amounts. These changes were accompanied by large feeding flocks of American Robins caroling and chirping from the pyracantha bushes, the first "spring" songs of Song Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, and Northern Flickers calling from high perches. Unusual for early winter were very high numbers of Tree Swallows (~850) and Violet-green Swallows (~450) among the 197 species recorded by the Moss Landing, MTY, CBC on Jan. 1.

Albatross to Ducks

Pelagic trips recorded 25–30 Laysan Albatross Jan. 8 at the Cordell Banks, SON (DN), one Jan. 16 in SCZ waters (DLSh), two Jan. 17 in MTY waters (DLSh), and 8–10 Jan. 22 at the Cordell Banks (DN). The wintering Point Arena, MEN, bird was seen again Jan. 28 (DT). The aforementioned pelagic trips also reported 8 Black-footed Albatross Jan. 8, 12 each on Jan. 16 and 17, and 12 on Jan. 22. A Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) was found on the Jan. 8 Cordell Banks pelagic trip (DN). This sighting was the 6th from Northern California waters since August of 1998. For a complete discussion by Don Roberson of the California status and distribution of this species, including excellent photographs, see: http://montereybay.com/creagus/CA_STAL.html. There were 325 and 125 Northern Fulmars seen on the Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 Cordell Banks pelagic trips, respectively (DN). Four Pink-footed Shearwaters were found at 8 Cordell Banks Jan. 8 (DN), 8 on at Monterey Jan. 17 (DLSh), and 3 at Cordell Bank Jan. 22 (DN). Those voyages also recorded 45 Short-tailed

Shearwaters on Jan. 8 and 15 on Jan. 22.

A few coastal Greater White-fronted Geese were reported: One continued at Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, MTY, Dec. 30–Jan. 14 (MPRBA), 4 at Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, Jan. 8 (ASH), two in the Pajaro Valley, SCZ, Jan. 13–16 (DSu, DB), and 5 at Beatrice, HUM, Jan. 18 (ABB). There were at least 30 coastal Snow Geese as well, with a high count of 13 at College Lake, SCZ, Jan. 28 (DSu). Four-to-five Ross's Geese continued at Moss Landing, MTY, Dec. 30–Jan. 1 (MPRBA), and 11 others were seen over ALA, HUM, SCL, and SCZ counties. Unusual for the coast were 4 Tundra Swans at College Lake, SCZ, Jan. 10 (DSu). Received too late for inclusion in last month's column was the report of a **Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*) from Smith River Bottoms, HUM, Dec. 19 (ABB). This swan is a rare winter visitor in the state, with most records from Northern California (Small, 1994).

At least 35 Eurasian Wigeons were reported over the period, with a high count of 11 from Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Jan. 27 (RL), and one at the Carmel R. mouth lagoon, MTY, Jan. 15 (CH, BH, JB), the 1st record from that location since 1961. Others were seen in ALA, CC, GLE, HUM, MTY, SM, SCZ, SF, SOL, and SON counties. A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was found at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, Jan. 1 (MR). Five single Tufted Ducks were observed: at Berkeley Aquatic Park, ALA, Jan. 1 (DW, RSc, DBr), on Clear Lake, LAK, Jan. 8–28 (DWo fide JW, JW), at L. Merritt, ALA, (there since the Dec. 19 CBC) Jan. 14–15 (JL), at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Jan. 14–27 (TO, JiW, RL), and at Salt Pond A9, Alviso, SCL, Jan. 29 (MR). The only Harlequin Duck sighting was one male near Fisherman's Wharf, MTY, Jan. 17 (LC), whereas 5 Oldsquaws were reported: 2 in Monterey Harbor, MTY, Dec. 30

(MPRBA), and single birds at Tyee City, HUM (ABB), at the Pajaro R. mouth, SCZ, Jan. 6 (LH), and at Big Lagoon, HUM, Jan. 18 (ABB).

Birders from all over California flocked to see an adult male **Smew** (*Mergellus albellus*) along the Old River in Tracy, SJ. This elegant-appearing merganser, a study in black and white, was first discovered by a local birder Jan. 20 (fide DY), the identification was confirmed on Jan. 23 (SH, WH), and MOB had the pleasure of adding it to their life lists through at least Jan. 29. This bird is a Eurasian species and exceedingly rare with only one other Calif. records, a male seen in Foster City, SM, on several dates from Dec. 1981 to Jan. 1984 (Small, 1994). Seventeen reports of Hooded Mergansers occurred during the period, over CC, SF, SCZ, SCL, and SON counties.

Hawks to Alcids

A Broad-winged Hawk was near College Lake, SCZ, Jan. 1 (MPRBA), and another was along Casserly Creek, SCZ, Jan. 1 (Moss Landing CBC). More than 20 Rough-legged Hawks were observed over HUM, MTY, SM, SOL, SON and YOL counties, with 12 of them found along Rd. 16, west of I-505, YOL, Jan. 26 [GCI]. A dark morph **Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) was seen at Lake Earl, DN, Jan. 22 (GS, ABB). A bird of the Arctic tundra, this species is extremely rare in Calif., with most records from extreme northern counties. One other report came from the same location in 1993 (Small, 1994).

Five individual Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported: at Moon Glow Dairy, MTY, Jan. 1 (MPRBA), a continuing bird between Pt. Joe and Bird Rock, MTY, Dec. 30–Jan. 5 (MPRBA), at Moro Cojo, MTY, Jan. 1 (Moss Landing CBC), near Hwy 1 near Pigeon Pt. Rd., SM, Jan. 9 (AWi), and another continuing bird at

Schoellenberger Park, SON, Jan. 26 (DN). SOL county reported 60-288 Mountain Plovers at the north end of Robinson Rd. Jan. 13-24 (RM, AD), and in YOL county, 8-150 Mountain Plovers were seen in the vicinity of the intersection of Rds. 88 and 16 on Jan. 5-17 (EG, KG, MOB). A nice group of 25 Lesser Yellowlegs was spotted Jan. 26 along Delta Rd., CC (FB). The 3 Rock Sandpipers first reported in late November continued at MacKerricher SP, MEN, Jan. 3 (DT).

The wintering **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) continued at Lake Cunningham, SCL, Jan. 1 (MR). A second report, of another Lesser Black-backed Gull came from Alviso, SM, Jan. 28 (AJ). Glaucous Gull reports totaled 18 during the period, coming from ALA, HUM, MEN, MRN, MTY, SM, SCZ, SF, and SON counties. There were 125 and 50 Black-legged Kittiwakes at the Cordell Banks, Jan. 8 and Jan. 22, respectively (DN). A late Elegant Tern was noted at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, Jan. 1 (Moss Landing CBC). Eleven Black Skimmers continued at Charleston Slough, SCL, Jan. 1 (MR), and 2 more were at Sunset State Beach, SCZ, Jan. 13 (SF). Ninety-five Rhinoceros Auklets were reported at Cordell Banks Jan. 8 (DN). A Horned Puffin flew by south of Elk, MEN, Jan. 28 (DT).

Nighthawks to Tyrant Flycatchers

Rare for season and location was a Lesser Nighthawk at Don Edwards SF Bay NWR, ALA, Dec. 30 (GV). A displaying male Allen's Hummingbird, first of the season, was at San Lorenzo R., SCZ, Jan. 13 (DSu), and 2 others displayed at Big Basin SP, SCZ, Jan. 14 (DSu). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were observed in Pescadero, SM, Jan. 2 (GH fide AWi) and on Panoche Rd., SBT, Jan. 8 (AR). Outstanding were reports of 7 Red-naped Sapsuckers occurring concur-

Wood Warbler Sightings			
Tennessee Warbler			
Dec. 30	Pelton & Centennial, SCZ	DSu	
Jan. 2	Ferndale, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 17-22	L. Merced, SF	KM, BE, Rfe	
Nashville Warbler			
Dec. 30	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	DSu	
Dec. 30	Mission Fields, Carmel, MTY	MPRBA	
Jan. 2-23	Bodega Bay, SON	KB, JR, AW	
Jan. 10	Watsonville, SCZ	DSu	
Jan. 11-24	MacLaren Lodge, GGP, SF	JC, SD	
Virginia's Warbler			
Dec. 30-	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	AK, DSu	
Jan. 1			
Lucy's Warbler			
Dec. 30-	Oakland, ALA	SDi	
Jan. 15 (con't from Dec. 26)			
Jan. 2	Ferndale, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 2	Port Kenyon, HUM	ABB	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
Jan. 2-28	MacLaren Lodge, GGP, SF	JE, ASH, RF	
Dec. 24)			
Blackburnian Warbler			
Jan. 2-9	Fernbridge, HUM	ABB	
Palm Warbler			
Dec. 30	Pacific Grove, MTY	MPRBA	
Jan. 1	Monterey, MTY	MPRBA	
Jan. 2	Port Kenyon, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 15	Arcata, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 20	Middle L., GGP, SF	KM	
Jan. 28	El Granada, SM	RT	
Black-and-white Warbler			
Dec. 29	Azalea Hill, HUM	ABB	
Dec. 30	Pacific Grove, MTY	MPRBA	
Dec. 30	Seaside, MTY	MPRBA	
Dec. 30	Watsonville, SCZ	PM	
Jan. 1	College Lake, SCZ	MPRBA	
Jan. 1	Pajaro R., MTY	MPRBA	
Jan. 2	Fernbridge, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 2, 22	Pescadero Creek, SM	AWi, RT	
Jan. 5	Corralitos Creek, SCZ	DSu	
Jan. 6	Fernbridge, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 9	Soquel Creek, SCZ	DSu	
Jan. 28	Hwy. 128, MEN	DI	
American Redstart			
Dec. 30-31	Arcata Marsh, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 2	Pescadero Creek, SM	AWi	
Jan. 7-25	Bay Farm Island, ALA	RS, JL, EP, MOB	
(con't from Dec. 19)			
Northern Waterthrush			
Dec. 30-	Arcata Marsh, HUM	ABB	
Jan. 1			
Mourning Warbler			
Dec. 29	Mission Fields, Carmel, MTY	MPRBA	

Abbreviations for Observers: JB, Jeff Barnum; FB, Florence Bennett; JRB, J. R. Blair; DB, David Bockman; DBr, David Bradley; KB, Ken Burton; GC, George Chaniot; LC, Les Chibana; JC, Josiah Clark; SD, Steven Davies; GD, Gary Deghi; AD, Al DeMartini; SDi, Sheila Dickey; ME, Mark Eaton; AL, Al Eisner; SE, Sharon Fernandez; Rfe, Ritch Ferrick; BE, Brian Fitch; JF, John Fitch; RF, Rob Fowler; SG, Steve Glover; EG, Ed Greaves; KGr, Keith Gress; KG, Kevin Guse; SH, Steven Hampton; GH, Garth Harwood; MH, Marilyn Hemminger; LH, Laird Henkel; BH, Bill Hill; CH, Craig Hohenberger; WH, Waldo Holt; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; AJ, Al Jaramillo; AK, Anna Kopitov; MS, Michelle Scott; RL, Rick Lebadour; WL, William Legg; JL, John Luther; KM, Kevin McKereghan; PM, Peter Metropoulos; GM, Greg Miller; CM, Collin Murphy; RM, Roger Muscat; DN, Dan Nelson; TO, Trent Orr; EP, Ed Pandollino; CP, Courtney Peddle; JR, Jean Richmond; MR, Mike Rogers; SR, Steve Rovell; AR, Andrew Rush; RSc, Rusty Scalf; BS, Barbara Scharfenstein; MS, Michelle Scott; GS, Gary Shaffer; DS, Doug Shaw; DLSh, Debra L. Shearwater; RS, Rich Stallcup; ES, Emilie Strauss; DSu, David Suddjian; RT, Ron Thorn; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; GV, Gene Valigerney; NW, Nick Whelan; AW, Alan White; JW, Jerry White; JWW, Jim White; DW, Denise Wight; DaW, Dan Williams; AWi, Adam Winer; JWi, Jay Witgot; DWo, Dave Woodward; DY, David Yee

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LAK, Lake; MOB, many observers; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; SAC, Sacramento; SBT, San Benito; SJ, San Joaquin; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; YOL, Yolo

rently in SCZ county. These were found north of Soquel, Jan. 5-14 (DSu), at DeLaveaga Park Dec. 30-Jan. 29 (BS, MS, MOB), Capitola Jan. 15 (DSu), on East Phillips Rd. near Pinto Lake, Jan. 1-16, (Moss Landing CBC, DSu), at Byrne Forest, Jan. 5-24 (DSu), at Long Ridge Rd., Jan. 15-24 (DSu), and at Rancho Del Oso Jan. 22 (GM). Another Red-naped Sapsucker was hit by a car in MTY county Jan. 4 (MPRBA).

A Least Flycatcher first reported

Dec. 15 continued at Arcata Marsh, HUM, at least until Jan. 21 (ABB). Another Least Flycatcher was at Delta Water Treatment Ponds, SON, Jan. 14-20 (DN, DS). A Hammond's Flycatcher reported beginning Dec. 18 at PRNS, MRN, at Park Headquarters, was still there on Jan. 9 (RS). An Eastern Phoebe first found Dec. 12 continued at the Merced NWR, MER, Jan. 9 (AR). Another Eastern Phoebe was spotted at the Delta Water Treatment Ponds, SON, Jan. 14-20 (DN, DS, AW). A

Continued next page

Observations *Continued from page 9*

Dusky-capped Flycatcher

(*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) was observed at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, SM, Jan. 2-3 (JRB fide AWi, PM). This species is a very rare late fall and early winter visitor (Small, 1994) and normally hails from southern Arizona and Mexico. Four single Tropical Kingbirds were observed during the period: at Arcata Bottoms, HUM, Dec. 28 (ABB), at L. Merced, SF, Jan. 5-26 and being reported sporadically as of (BF, KM, JWi, MOB), and at Moss Beach, SM, Jan. 13 (RT). Unusual for winter was a Cassin's Kingbird at Route 25 & Panoche Rd., SBT, Jan. 8 (AR).

The **Thick-billed Kingbird** (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) first seen Dec. 18 continued at Half Moon Bay, SM, Jan. 8-11 (AE, AWi, RF, EP).

Swallows to Orioles

Scattered reports of early Barn Swallows came from MTY, SCL, SCZ, and SON counties. There was a Rock Wren at Aromas Quarry, SCZ, Jan. 1 (Moss Landing CBC), another at Lonestar Quarry, Davenport, SCZ, Jan. 20 (DSu), at least 2 on Bitterwater Rd., MTY, Jan. 15 (SR), and 1 at Arrowhead Marsh Jan. 16-20 (CP, CM), possibly the same bird reported by Rusty Scalf in October. Rare for the location was a Sage Thrasher near Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, CC, Jan. 4-16 (KB, ES, SG, MOB).

Wood warbler highlights were a

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) seen in Carmel, MTY, and a first winter record and 5th county record of a Virginia's Warbler for SCZ county. The Mourning Warbler is an exceedingly rare winter visitor (Small, 1994), normally found in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. Late (or early?) Wilson's Warblers were found at Arcata Marsh, HUM, Dec. 30 and Jan. 21 (ABB), at Watsonville, SCZ, Dec. 30 (PM), and in Pescadero, SM, Jan. 1 (RT). Other interesting wood warbler sightings are presented in the accompanying chart (page 9).

The Summer Tanager found on the Monterey Peninsula CBC Dec. 28 continued at River Inn, MTY, Dec. 29-30 (MPRBA). A Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Coyote Creek, SM, Jan. 28 (AJ), and a Clay-colored Sparrow was near Pigeon Point, SM, Jan. 2 (PM). A winter male Lark Bunting was found near Panoche Rd., SBT, Jan. 17 (AE). Two Swamp Sparrows were at Zmudowski SP, MTY, Dec. 31 (PM), and 6 individual birds were found in HUM, SF, SM, SON, and SCZ counties. Single White-throated Sparrows were at the UCSC Arboretum, SCZ, Dec. 30 (MS), in Berkeley, ALA, Jan. 1 (CM), in GGP, SF, Jan. 24 (SD), in Green Valley, SOL, Jan. 24 (RM), and near Coyote Creek, SM, Jan. 28 (AJ), and 1 or 2 more were at Delta Water Treatment Ponds, SON, Jan. 20 (DN). There was a Harris's Sparrow at McKinleyville ,

HUM, Dec. 28-Jan. 21 (ABB), and the immature Harris's Sparrow found in David Suddjian's yard in Capitola, SCZ, Dec. 17-18 was still in the neighborhood through Jan. 3. Another Harris's Sparrow was reported from Grizzly Island Wild life Area, SOL, Jan. 19-22 (RM, WL).

Two McCown's Longspurs were at the intersection of Roads 16 & 90B, YOL, Jan. 8-17 (KG, ME, MR). At the same location was a male Lapland Longspur Jan. 17 (MRs), as well as 6 to 30 or more Chestnut-collared Longspurs Jan. 5-17 (KG, ME, MR). A single Chestnut-collared Longspur, first found in November, was still at Half Moon Bay, SM, Jan. 8-9 (AE, MH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Sacramento, SAC, Jan. 28 (DaW), and an Indigo Bunting was found in Pescadero, SM, Jan. 1 (RT). Seven Great-tailed Grackles continued at Roberts Lake, MTY, Dec. 30 (MPRBA), and individual birds were sighted at Fields Landing, HUM, Jan. 1 (ABB), at King Salmon, HUM, Jan. 15 (ABB), and at Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge, SOL, Jan. 17-24 (KGr, NW, RM). A female Baltimore Oriole, a bird of the eastern U.S. and a rare but regular winter visitor (Small, 1994), was reported at Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF, Jan. 24-26 (SD, BF, GD).

Success at Alameda *Continued from page 4*

and support.

We had very supportive meetings with staff from Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer and with Department of Interior Assistant Secretary John Berry and with Daniel Ashe, Assistant Director, Refuges and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The outcome of all this was simply gratifying. Our Alameda Least Terns will face many other hazards this nesting season (starting in early

April), but we have been successful in eliminating one of the most significant of the threats to a successful breeding season.

Your financial support made all of this possible. Trips to Washington do put a dent in our organization's budget. More trips will be necessary. The fence that is going up is a temporary fence. The Refuge boundary is being realigned (no loss of acreage, just a more correct alignment), and a per-

manent fence must still be erected. That fence will be expensive (at least \$250,000), and it will take all of our efforts to get Congress to appropriate that amount of money.

But that's a few months down the road. For now we can, but only for a short while, enjoy our success and hope our terns have a peaceful and successful breeding season. Our great thanks to you all.

The Birds Are Hungry – It's Our Spring Seed Sale Time!

It's been a while since our Fall seed sale, and if your birds were like ours, they were eating an awful lot of seed to keep up their energy levels. So, it's time to stock up once again with birdseed to feed our avian friends over the next few months. Please send in your order and make sure that there are a bunch of happy birds in your backyard.

Most of our native birds favor either sunflower seeds (chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, white-crowned sparrows, purple and house finches) or niger seed (goldfinches, pine siskins, and chickadees). To honor their preferences, we keep our sunflower seed prices at a very competitive level.

Our next birdseed sale pick-up will take place on March 31 and April 1.

If you wish to order seed, please fill out the adjacent seed-order form and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS, with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, March 23.

You can pick up your seed on either Friday, March 31, from 3–6 PM or on Saturday, April 1, from 9 AM–12 Noon, at the Golden Gate Audubon Office in Berkeley.

We will have plenty of extra seed on hand, so if you didn't order enough seed, or forgot to order any seed at all, please come on down to the office. We'll have the seed you need!

Volkman seed is the best there is. It contains no waste seed and has been cleaned of debris and dust so you get what you pay for. If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS Office, 510-843-2222.

The Duncraft Feeder is a 16" long tube seed-feeder and, as always, we have a variety of hummingbird feeders and a fun thistle seed feeder (the birds twirl around as if on a carousel).

We are also offering GGAS hats. These hats are black baseball-style caps adorned with our now famous GGAS logo. They are wonderful hats, and you'll enjoy wearing them. These hats cost \$15. Please add \$2 for postage and handling if you want us to mail them to you.

At the Office, we also have the new *National Geographic Field Guide*, third edition (\$18.42), *Peterson's Western Birds Field Guide* (\$18.00). We also have the very popular *Birds of San Francisco Bay and the Bay Area* by our own Joe Morlan. This is a great book for beginning birders or for children, and it only costs \$9.95

Remember, your purchases provide an important source of income to GGAS, allowing us to continue our conservation, education and field trip activities. We look forward to seeing you on seed sale day.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE ORDER AND PREPAY BY March 23, PICK-UP March 31 & April 1

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SEED	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
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Contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed	50 lbs. \$19.50	
VOLKMAN PREMIUM WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs. \$ 8.50	
Composed of only red and white millet – no sunflower seeds (no squirrels)	50 lbs. \$18.50	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs. \$11.00	
	50 lbs. \$20.00	
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SUET CAGE (2" x 5" x 5")	\$ 5.50	
SUET CAKE (11.75 oz.)	\$ 2.75	
GGAS Hat	\$15.00	
GGAS T-shirt	\$10.00	

Be sure to include your check with a stamped and self-addressed envelope.	SUB-TOTAL	
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March Meeting

Can San Francisco's California Quail Survive?

Most popular, one of the handsomest birds in California and easily recognized" is how Joseph Malliard described the California Quail in his 1930 book *THE BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK SAN FRANCISCO*. At the turn of the 19th century, the Park's population of California Quail was estimated to be 1,500; today only 12 birds survive. Join Alan Hopkins at our March meeting as he discusses the quail's past, where they are at the present, and what needs to be done to maintain San Francisco's quail for the future. Alan Hopkins is the founder of SAVE THE QUAIL, President of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and a compiler of the San Francisco Christmas Bird Count. Alan has been leading bird watching trips in the San Francisco since 1979 and has led three GGAS Safaris to Kenya. Alan received a BFA

Thursday, March 16, 2000

**7:00 p.m.
Refreshments/Doors open**

**7:30 p.m.
Program**

**The Josephine Randall
Museum
199 Museum Way
(off Roosevelt Way)
San Francisco**

in painting at the San Francisco Art Institute. He now applies his artistic talents to bird photography, his photos having appeared in: *American Birds*, *Bird Conservation*, *Birding*, and *Western Birds*. Alan also is an ornithological consultant for IDG Films.



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Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA.

Send address changes to office promptly. Post Office does not forward *The Gull*. Monthly meeting: third Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Joint membership, local and national, \$50 dollars per year (\$20 per year new members) includes *Audubon Magazine* and *The Gull*. Renewals should be sent directly to National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *The Gull* separately: \$10 per year, single issues \$1.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue.

The Gull -- ISSN 0164-971X

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